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I am here to speak in favor of expanding the role of pharmacist to administer any vaccine ordered by an authorized prescriber. Currently pharmacist can only administer flu vaccines to persons over 18 yrs old.

I am a practicing pharmacist and began administering influenza vaccine to adults this fall. Our practice administered 290 vaccines to date.

Vaccines are a critical part of public health and are responsible for nearly eradicating many deadly diseases in the last century. **All things that increase vaccination rates will save lives, pain and suffering and health care dollars. (cdc.gov)**

States that allow pharmacist to immunize have higher vaccination rate then states that do not (Steyer, RE et al. Vaccine, 2004;22:1001-6).

Pharmacists are in a unique position to improve vaccination rates:

Accessibility-

-Most pharmacies are open long hours which allows for ease of scheduling of vaccines.

-some vaccines require special handling that makes arranging administration more difficult.

Qualifications-

-New graduates have had vaccine training/certification. National and regional training courses are ongoing for previous grads.

-Pharmacists have access to patient records that can indicate high risk patients.

Reimbursement

-As of January 2008, CMS guidelines urge Medicare D carriers to use one provider for providing and administering vaccines.

-Aetna contract & Cigna contract (attached)



**MEDICARE PART D VACCINE ADMINISTRATION FEE
AMENDMENT TO
PARTICIPATING PHARMACY AGREEMENT**

This is an Amendment to the Participating Pharmacy Agreement ("Agreement") between the Pharmacy ("Pharmacy") and the health maintenance organization or health plan ("Healthplan") listed below, whereby Pharmacy agreed to provide certain pharmacy services to individuals served by Healthplan and its affiliates. The Effective Date of this Amendment is January 1, 2008.

WHEREAS, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA) modified the definition of a Part D drug to include the vaccine, for Medicare Part D vaccines administered on or after January 1, 2008, its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance on May 14, 2007 in relation to operational guidance on administration fees for Part D vaccines; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Amendment Section of the Agreement, Healthplan and Pharmacy wish to amend the Agreement to allow reimbursement to Pharmacy for vaccine administration associated with vaccines covered under Medicare Part D, in accordance with the CMS guidance.

NOW, THEREFORE, for valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Agreement is hereby amended as follows:


1. For purposes of this Amendment, capitalized terms used herein shall be as defined in the Agreement, unless otherwise specified.
2. The reimbursement to the Pharmacy for vaccines covered under Medicare Part D and identified on the Healthplan formulary ("Vaccines") shall be as follows:
 - a) Cost of the Vaccine: Vaccine Ingredient Cost plus dispensing fee as defined in the Agreement, and
 - b) Vaccine administration fee: \$18.00
3. Healthplan shall provide reimbursement as specified herein for Vaccine administration only for Medicare Part D covered vaccines as identified on the Healthplan formulary, and only for Vaccines administered at the Pharmacy by personnel authorized by applicable State law to administer such Part D Vaccines.
4. The following vaccines are **excluded** from reimbursement under this Amendment as they are covered under Medicare Part B:

- Pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine
- Influenza virus vaccine
- Hepatitis B vaccine for individuals at high or intermediate risk
- Other vaccines when directly related to the treatment of an injury of direct exposure to a disease or condition

5. Except as modified by this Amendment, all other terms and provisions of the Agreement shall continue in full force and effect.

CIGNA HealthCare of Connecticut, Inc.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex G. K.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Title: Vice President, Pharmacy Contracting

Date: November 7, 2007

Sample Listing of Medicare Part D Covered Vaccines.

This list is provided for informational purposes and is not all inclusive. This list may be amended from time to time pursuant to CMS guidance.

Vaccine Type	Brand Names (examples); <i>generics</i>	Covered under Pharmacy (Part D)	Requires clinical review to determine Medical vs. Pharmacy coverage
Anthrax	Anthrax vaccine		X
diph-acell pert-tet tox -haemoph B-poly combinations	Trihibit, Pediarix	X	
Haemophilus B	Pedvax HIB, ActHIB, Hibtiter	X	
Haemophilus B-Hepatitis B combination	Comvax	X	
Hep A and Hep B combination	Twinrix	X	
Hepatitis A	Havrix, Vaqta		X
Hepatitis B	Bayhep B, Hepagam B, Recombivax HB, Engerix-B <i>NABI-HB</i>		X
Herpes zoster	Zostavax	X	
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	Gardasil	X	
Japanese encephalitis	Je-Vax	X	
Measles	Attenuvax	X	
Measles-mumps-rubella; measles-rubella combinations	M-M-R; M-R-Vax	X	
Measles-rubella combination	M-R-VAX II	X	
Meningococcal	Menomune, Menactra	X	
Mumps	Mumpsavax	X	
Poliovirus	Ipol	X	
Rabies	Imovax Rabies, Rabavert, <i>Bayra</i> , <i>Imogam</i>		X
Rotavirus	Rotateq	X	
Rubella	Meruvax	X	
Tetanus toxoid	Tetanus toxoid		X
Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis	<i>Tet/Dip</i> , Infanrix, Decavac, Tripedia, Daptacel, Adacel, Boostrix	X	
Typhoid	Typhim Vi	X	
Typhoid vaccine, oral	Vivotif Berna EC	X	
Varicella	Varivax, <i>varicella zo</i>	X	
Yellow fever	YF-Vax	X	

**PHARMACY SERVICES AND COMPENSATION SCHEDULE –
PART D COVERED VACCINES**

The terms and conditions set forth in this Part D Covered Vaccine Amendment to the Pharmacy Services and Compensation Schedule shall apply with respect to Medicare Part D covered vaccines provided to Members.

Medicare Part D Covered Vaccines

Solely with respect to MA-PD plans and PDPs, the Pharmacy Services and Compensation Schedule shall be amended to include as follows:

- 1). Pharmacy hereby agrees to accept the Reimbursement Rate(s) for Medicare Part D covered vaccines provided to Members at the reimbursement rates set forth in the Pharmacy's Aetna Retail Pharmacy Services Agreement.
- 2). When Pharmacy is permitted under state law to dispense and administer a Medicare Part D covered vaccine to a Member, Company agrees to pay Pharmacy, upon receipt of a Clean Claim, the following the administrative fee for the administration of the Medicare Part D covered vaccine to the Member:

Medicare Part D Covered Vaccine Administration Compensation	Administration Fee: The lesser of (a) Pharmacy's submitted vaccine administration fee, or (b) \$20.00
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